(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Growth in Export by Bhilai Steel Plant

424. SHRI MADAN PATIL : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bhilai Steel Plant has registered a significant growth in export despatches during the first half of the 1997-98; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) Bhilai Steel Plant has registered a significant growth in exports despatches during April-September,1997 *vis-a-vis* corresponding period last year. Exports of iron and steel materials from Bhilai Steel Plant during April - September,1997, April-September,1996 and percentage growth are as under :

Quantity : MT (Prov.)

Product	April-Sept. 97'	Apr.-Sept-96	%age Growth
Steel	291573	168530	73%
Pig Iron	91250	Nil	—
Total	382823	168530	127%

[Translation]

Touts

425. DR. BALIRAM :
SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of touts apprehended in the reservation offices in the country and particularly in Delhi, Mumbai, Varanasi, Allahabad and Lucknow during the last five months;

(b) the total number of cases of connivance of railway employes in blackmarketing of tickets came to light; and

(c) the details of measures/action taken by the Government to check the blackmerketing of tickets?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) 1328 touts were apprehended on the Zonal Railways, including 138 touts in Delhi, Mumbai, Varanasi, Allahabad and Lucknow stations.

(b) 97.

(c) Frequent check are conducted to combat malpractices and blackmarketing of tickets at important railway stations and reservation offices. Touts who are anti-social/unscrupulous/unauthorised elements/persons operating in and around reservation offices/railway stations are apprehended and handed over to the police for prosecution under Section 143 of the Railway's Act,1989. Staff indulging in such activities are suitably taken up. Closed Circuit TVs are also being installed at few important railway stations to detect/watch the activities of the touts and anti-social elements.

[English]

Urban Land Ceiling Act, 1976

426. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :
SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY :
SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL :
SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK :

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Group of Ministers have been examining the feasibility of amending the Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation Act,1976;

(b) if so, the details of the proposed amendmens; and

(c) by what time the final legislation in this regard is likely to be taken up ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATARAMAN) : (a) and (b) The Group of Ministers considered the proposals to amend the Urban Land(Ceiling and Regulation) Act,1976. However, after examining the matter in detail, the Government has now decided, in principle, to repeal the Act.

(c) The Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, 1976 being a Central Act, can be amended/repealed after the Legisiature(s) of at least two concerned States pass a resolution empowering the Parliament to amend/repeal the Act in accordance with Article 252 (2) of the Constitution. Once such resolution are received from at least two states the Government will take further necessary action in the matter.

[Translation]

Demands of Porters

427. SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some demands of porters of Mumbai are lying pending with the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to consider their demands;

(d) if so, whether any time-bound programme has been prepared for this purpose;

(e) if so, the details thereof ; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (f) The licensed porters of Mumbai Central station have requested for provision of adequate resting facility at Mumbai Central Railway station. A rest shelter measuring 36'x24' already exists at the station. There is a proposal for additional shelter for inclusion in future works programmes, if found feasible, subject to availability of funds.

[English]

Implementation of Steel Projects

428. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether near about 20 project of steel sector involing crores of rupees are under various stages of implementation;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons for delay in their implementation; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to gear up for speedy implementation of the projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (c) According to information available with the Government at present,17 steel projects have been sanctioned by the All India Financial Institutions. Of these,11 projects are under various stages of implementation while others have been commissioned. Details are given in the Statement attached.

Most of these projects are in the private sector. Government, however, reviews the implementation of these projects from time to time. It is noted that delay, if any, in most of the cases are on account of factors such as acquisition of land, financial tie-ups etc.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the Unit and Location	Process Route & Prod. Mix	Capacity L. tonnes Sal. Stl.	Investment Rs. Crores	Status/Date of Commissioning
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	NOVA UDYOG LIMITED (Nainital,U.P.)	EAF B&R	2.40	101.40	Closed under BIFB Dec., 93
2.	INDIAN SEAMLESS S&A LTD. (Pune,.Maharashtra)	EAF B & R/Seamless Bar	1.50	175.00	In Production Dec, 94
3.	LLOYDS STEEL IND.LTD. (Wardha, Maharashtra)	EAF PLATE/HRC CR/GP/GC	6.00 (SMS Cap:5 LTPA)	1100.00	In Production PLATE/HRC:Oct, 94 CR/GPGC:Dec, 95
4.	ESSAR STEEL LTD. (Hazira, Gujarat)	HBI-EAF HRC	20.00	3933.00	in Production Mar, 96
5.	JINDAL STRIPS LTD. (Raigarh, MP)	DRI-EAF Slab/Billets	4.00 (DRI Cap: 6 LTPA)	600.00	In Production Mar, 96/97
6.	PRAKASH IND. LTD. (Bharuch,Gujarat)	EIF Billets (Plant being shifted to Champa, MP.)	1.20	72.52	Mar, 96
7.	RAJENDER STEEL LTD. (Raipur, MP)	EAF HRC (Part cap:1.7 LRPA Commissioned)	3.00	500.00	Under Impln.
8.	NOVA STEELS (I) LTD. (Bilaspur, MP)	EAF WR/B & R	2.00	140.00	Under Impln,
9.	MALVIKA STEEL LTD. (Jagdishpur,UP)	BF-BOF B & R /WR (BFs Commissioned, producing pig iron)	6.00	1532.50	Under Impln. Dec.,1997